

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

515


Dear Chairman Pai:

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) considers how to repurpose the 3.7-4.2 GHz spectrum band (C-Band) for 5G wireless use, we respectfully urge the Commission to adopt an approach that will reallocate as much spectrum possible through an open, transparent FCC-led public auction that clears equal amounts of this spectrum in urban and rural areas to the extent technically feasible. In addition to providing critical mid-band spectrum for 5G services, this approach will ensure rural residents in Montana, and across the country, will receive the benefits of new 5G services and applications as efficiently and quickly as possible.


In order to continue to lead the world in 5G deployment we need to clear as much spectrum as possible in a public auction. However, we recognize that cable operators, broadcasters, and programmers make extensive use of the C-Band today to distribute and receive programming and it is important that their ability to reach their consumers is uninterrupted and maintained. Further, the revenue generated by a public auction could be used to expand fiber for program delivery and create funds reimbursing incumbent users who transition to different bands or different delivery methods to service their communities. An FCC-led public auction provides the necessary assurances to all interested parties that the relevant decisions and determinations regarding the assignment of 5G licenses in the C-Band will be conducted through a traditional public process that offers transparency and equal opportunity. This approach stands in stark contrast to the proposals limiting public involvement and depriving Montana taxpayers from receiving any benefit for the use of these frequencies.

The C-Band is critical to our winning the race to 5G and providing our economy with a robust connectivity infrastructure that meets the needs of subsequent generations. In order to accomplish those goals, the Commission must adopt a framework that clears the maximum amount of spectrum in an open and transparent process that benefits all Americans, provides equal considerations for urban and rural communities, including those in places like Montana which we are blessed to represent. Such an approach provides the best and most effective path towards the expeditious and nationwide deployment of 5G.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter.


Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Steve Daines
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Greg Gianforte
U.S. House of Representatives
1222 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gianforte:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing rulemaking related to spectrum in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, commonly called the "C-band." C-band spectrum is widely seen as a critical swath of mid-band spectrum that could drive American leadership in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity. This spectrum offers both geographic coverage and the capacity to transmit large amounts of data—a combination that is appealing to entrepreneurs and wireless consumers alike.

However, this proceeding is exceedingly complex, principally because of the number of entities that currently rely on C-band delivered services. In particular, content companies, broadcasters, and cable operators use this spectrum for the delivery of services that consumers rely upon. As a result, bringing this rulemaking to a successful conclusion will require the FCC to balance a variety of interests. That is why we have sought public comment on all aspects of the issues involved. We want to make a fully-informed decision that is consistent with the public interest.

Stakeholders have brought forward different plans for the C-Band, and the Commission is continuing to evaluate those proposals. And as we move forward, I believe that it is important that we keep in mind the following goals. *First*, we are seeking to make available a significant amount of spectrum in the C-Band for 5G. Or to put it another way, the more spectrum that we can make available for 5G, the better. *Second*, we want to make C-Band spectrum available for 5G quickly. *Third*, we believe that this spectrum should generate revenue for the federal government. And *fourth*, we want to ensure that the services that are currently using the C-Band will continue to be delivered to the American people.

The Commission is continuing to assess the record and engage in dialogue with stakeholders regarding these issues. And I am optimistic that the Commission will be able to adopt rules that will advance these objectives in the near future. Thank you once again for your letter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Steve Daines
United States Senate
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

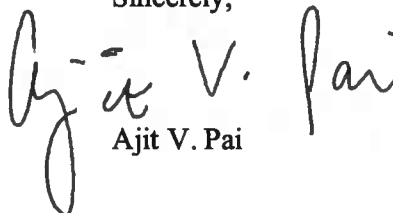
Thank you for your letter concerning the Federal Communications Commission's ongoing rulemaking related to spectrum in the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, commonly called the "C-band." C-band spectrum is widely seen as a critical swath of mid-band spectrum that could drive American leadership in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity. This spectrum offers both geographic coverage and the capacity to transmit large amounts of data—a combination that is appealing to entrepreneurs and wireless consumers alike.

However, this proceeding is exceedingly complex, principally because of the number of entities that currently rely on C-band delivered services. In particular, content companies, broadcasters, and cable operators use this spectrum for the delivery of services that consumers rely upon. As a result, bringing this rulemaking to a successful conclusion will require the FCC to balance a variety of interests. That is why we have sought public comment on all aspects of the issues involved. We want to make a fully-informed decision that is consistent with the public interest.

Stakeholders have brought forward different plans for the C-Band, and the Commission is continuing to evaluate those proposals. And as we move forward, I believe that it is important that we keep in mind the following goals. *First*, we are seeking to make available a significant amount of spectrum in the C-Band for 5G. Or to put it another way, the more spectrum that we can make available for 5G, the better. *Second*, we want to make C-Band spectrum available for 5G quickly. *Third*, we believe that this spectrum should generate revenue for the federal government. And *fourth*, we want to ensure that the services that are currently using the C-Band will continue to be delivered to the American people.

The Commission is continuing to assess the record and engage in dialogue with stakeholders regarding these issues. And I am optimistic that the Commission will be able to adopt rules that will advance these objectives in the near future. Thank you once again for your letter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai